

# TWENTY PER CENT BOOST IN FREIGHT RATES PREDICTED

Lumber Association Official Warns Southern District That This Increase Must Be Made to Insure Income.

An increase of 20 per cent in freight rates will be necessary in Southern territory in order to bring the net operating income of the carriers up to six per cent, as is guaranteed under the new railroad bill, according to a statement made in a letter forwarded Tuesday by J. H. Townsend, secretary of the Southern Hardwood Traffic Association, to members of the organization. In Southern territory an increase of 25 per cent will be necessary. The average throughout the country, according to Mr. Townsend's prediction, will be 16.45 per cent. The traffic officials' estimates are based on a statement from the statistical bureau of the commerce commission made for Senator Kellogg, of Minnesota. The estimates of the bureau are based upon operating results during the first nine months of 1921. To realize a net income of six per cent on the aggregate property account of roads, as stated in the carriers' books, it would be necessary to assign the following increases in the districts: New England, 25.66 per cent; trunk line territory outside of New England, 16.73 per cent; Southern classification territory, 19.94 per cent; Southwestern lines, 24.85 per cent; average of all roads in the country, 16.45 per cent. Other Estimates.

Prior to the passage of the railroad bill, the letter explains, various estimates were made on the probable increase in freight rates. These estimates ranged from 25 per cent by Howard Elliott, former president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, to 50 per cent by other transportation authorities. From these statements it will be seen that Mr. Townsend is predicting a smaller increase than any other traffic authority. The new railroad law gives the interstate commerce commission power to initiate rates but does not lay down any measure of control. It merely establishes a rule by which the commission can adjust the operating income of all roads.

Mr. Townsend insists, however, that his warning of an advance in rates is not conclusive. Its chief fault is that it

is based upon the first nine months of 1921, commencing that period Mr. Hines, director-general of railroads, recently declared. The question of an increase in rates could not properly be considered as the exclusive basis of an unfavorable showing which the railroad administration was making in the latter part of this year, because the showing was very largely due to an abnormally high freight business, so that the result of that period could not fairly be taken for an estimate for increasing increases in rates. Nevertheless, therefore, it seems to me that the formulation of any proposal for a general increase in rates would have to await a letter opportunity for making an estimate as to what the carrying capacity would be under normal conditions.

## NEW ALBANY MARSHAL TO RUN FOR MAYOR

NEW ALBANY, Miss., March 2. (Spt.)—C. L. Martin, city marshal and for 20 years a justice of the peace in this county, has announced his candidacy to succeed W. S. Parks as mayor of the city in opposition to Sam W. Maynor. Mayor Parks has declined to consider re-nomination.

## MARSHALL MAY BE TRIED IN TUPELO

ABERDEEN, Miss., March 2. (Spt.)—Charles Marshall, charged with murder in connection with the quadruple killing of the Miller family near Ansony in January, will be brought here Friday for a hearing in circuit court of his attorney's plea for a change of venue. He is expected to be granted on the way here and during the hearing by 100 state troops. His attorney, it is said, will seek transfer of the trial to Tupelo, in Lee county.

## 16,252 BALES OF COTTON GINNED IN BLYTHEVILLE

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., March 2. (Spt.)—The official ginner's report shows that there have to date 16,252 bales of cotton ginned in Blytheville, with probably nearly a thousand more yet to come. This does not represent the amount sold here, as a great quantity ginned elsewhere comes here to market.

## POSTPONE ROAD WORK. PINE BLUFF, Ark., March 2. (Spt.)

The commissioners of the Pine Bluff and Bayou Meto road district at a meeting held here Monday decided to postpone the construction of the road for six months. The scarcity of labor and the high cost of building material was attributed as the cause.

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